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NCO Reading List

The following was taken from the on-line Air Force News Service.



"WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- A reading list for enlisted people is now part of the Air Force chief of staff's professional reading program. It joins a previously released officer reading list in a program to enhance the professional development of Air Force members.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric W. Benken, along with the Air Force History Support Office and senior enlisted leaders, helped the chief of staff identify books on the enlisted reading list. The goal is to broaden the perspective of enlisted members while fostering the growth of an air and space culture throughout the service.

The result is a list of eight books divided into basic, intermediate and advanced levels. These correlate to the different stages of an enlisted member's career. Selected volumes address Air Force doctrine, history, enlisted heritage, combat experience and leadership.

"This is a great initiative that will help us provide the Air Force with the best possible enlisted leaders and supervisors," Benken said.

"Reading and discussing the books we've chosen in professional military education classes will enhance our troops' appreciation for our service heritage and its air and space capabilities."

The chief added, "Reading these books will also help strengthen the leadership and management skills of our people. That's important because our enlisted men and women are taking on more and more responsibility in these times of tight budgets and limited resources.

"So, it's imperative that we prepare them for the leadership challenges that lie ahead. Much can be learned by reading about the experiences of those who have gone before us."

Starting this month, the books on the enlisted reading list will be incorporated into the curriculums of Airman Leadership School, Noncommissioned Officer Academy and Senior NCO Academy. The chief of staff has approved Benken's proposal to issue the books to students free of charge to become part of enlisted members' personal professional libraries.

These are the books for each PME course:

Airman Leadership School

"The Passing of the Night" by Robinson Risner

"10 Propositions" by Phillip Meilinger

NCO Academy

"They Also Flew: The Enlisted Pilot Legacy 1912-1942" by Lee Arbon

"10 Propositions" by Phillip Meilinger

"Lincoln on Leadership" by Donald Phillips

Senior NCO Academy

"Makers of the United States Air Force" by John Frisbee

"Winged Victory" by Geoffrey Perret

"Profiles in Courage" by John F. Kennedy

"The Killer Angels" by Michael Shaara

Members of the Air Force History Support Office are working on buying and distributing the books on the enlisted reading list. The list can also be found on the Air Force home page at <http://www.af.mil:80/lib/csafbook/index.html> for those who surf the Internet.

The books also should soon be available for checkout at base libraries across the Air Force. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will also have most of the books available to buy through base exchanges, similar to what has been done for books on the officer reading list."

Since you're visiting the library anyway, I recommend the following choices for all 4E's:

"New Guinea Tapeworms and Jewish Grandmothers" by Robert S. Desowitz

"Rats, Lice, and History" by Hans Zinsser

